

CORE CHIEF URGES CONGO CEASE-FIRE

Farmer, on Tour, Calls for
Big-Power Withdrawal

By J. ANTHONY LUKAS

Special to The New York Times

LEOPOLDVILLE, the Congo Jan. 29 — An American Negro leader proposed an "African" peace plan for the Congo here today.

James Farmer, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, called for a "disengagement" by the great powers from the Congo, a cease-fire, the removal of all white mercenaries from the country and a conference of rebel and Government leaders.

Mr. Farmer, who is on a nine-nation tour of Africa, said white mercenaries should be replaced by troops from African states, who would act as "neutral and impartial policemen" to enforce a cease-fire.

"The Congo is an African problem requiring an African solution," he said.

At a news conference in the United States Embassy, Mr. Farmer dismissed a comment that most of the points in his plan had already been rejected by Premier Moise Tshombe.

"What is rejected one day may be accepted the next when circumstances change," he said.

Optimism Is Expressed

Mr. Farmer had a two-hour talk with Mr. Tshombe on Wednesday, just before the Premier's departure for Brussels. He described the meeting as "very friendly and fruitful."

The Negro leader said he was convinced that a cease-fire would be possible in the Congo if it was demanded by the Organization of African Unity. The organization issued such a call last September, but it was ignored by both sides.

He said he was awaiting "with hope and anxiety" the results of a meeting of the organization's Commission on the Congo, being held today in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Farmer did not define precisely what he meant by big-power "disengagement." However, he said the United States and other Western powers should stop providing military aid for Mr. Tshombe's Government as soon as the Organization of African Unity issued a call for a cease-fire.

Finds Hostility to U.S.

"I feel my country has erred both in omission and commission," he said.

Mr. Farmer added that he had been "dismayed by the anti-Western and anti-American feeling" he had encountered on his trip, especially in East Africa. He said this feeling was apparently generated chiefly by the situations in the Congo, South Africa and Angola.

He said he would make several recommendations on how to improve the United States' reputation in Africa, to the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa, which is sponsoring his three-week tour. The conference is composed of leaders of the major civil rights groups in the United States.

Mr. Farmer said he would also report to President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey.

On the political front, 200 Congolese women demonstrated at the Belgian Embassy to back Premier Tshombe's demands in his forthcoming negotiations with Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgium's Foreign Minister.

Observers here could not recall any previous public demonstration by Congolese women, who normally play no role in political life. Women do not have a vote in the Congo.

Mr. Tshombe's chief demand is for the return of the portfolio of shares that the former Belgian colonial administration held in private companies operating here. In 1959 the portfolio was worth the equivalent of \$750 million.

Special to The New York Times
Gbenye Silent on Arms

ALGIERES, Jan. 29—Christophe Gbenye, the Congolese rebel leader who is on a visit here, refused to comment tonight on press reports that he was seeking "more suitable" weapons for his guerrillas.

However, he said at a conference that if Belgium and the United States gave arms to Premier Moise Tshombe "Algeria will never hesitate to give us all necessary aid."